

The **KINGBIRD**



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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS



The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

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NOTICE

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APPLICATION for membership should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee, Miss Audrey Louise Wrede, 3109 Beverley Road, Brooklyn 26, N. Y.

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YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS . . .

May I take this opportunity to express not only for myself, but for all Federation members, our thanks to Eugene Eisenmann and all other Federation officers of the past year who have given so freely of their time and effort in our behalf. The committee chairmen and the committee members, as well as the Editor of the **Kingbird** and his staff, are also deserving of commendation for their devotion to activities of the Federation.

It has been found necessary to reschedule the date of our annual meeting for 1954, due to an unforeseen conflict with the A. O. U. meeting at Madison, Wisconsin on September 8-12, inclusive. The date of our meeting at Ithaca will be the weekend of August 28 and 29, with some committee meetings on Friday, August 27. Details of the plans are being formulated and will be mailed to all member clubs and individual members. I hope that you will all find it possible to attend not only our meeting, but the field trip to the Montezuma Swamp area. The sponsors will be the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, the Cayuga Bird Club, and the Cornell Field Ornithology Club.

Offers from member clubs to be hosts to the Federation for the 1955 Annual Meeting will be acted upon at the Ithaca meeting.

This year we will start our systematic recording of data in connection with the proposed new state birdbook. The State Book Committee will call a meeting of all Regional Editors, District Editors and Club representatives on Friday evening, August 27, when it is hoped that a uniform statewide code of procedure in acceptance of records, criteria of abundance for each species, migration data and related subjects will be adopted. All will have a chance to ask questions and to give constructive suggestions to the State Book Committee. You will hear more about this from Dr. Gordon M. Meade, Committee Chairman.

I suggest that we all reread pages 62-64 in the October, 1953, **Kingbird**, with particular reference to the coverage of neglected areas in the state, and come to the Annual Meeting with suggestions as to individuals or prospective new clubs to cover such areas. In this connection I am pleased to announce that plans are under way to form a new bird club in Utica.

In the field of conservation, the Cormorant protection bill, initiated by H. Everest Clements, and proposed for enactment by the Conservation Committee, has been followed up assiduously by Stanley Grierson, Chairman, Sam Madison, Dr. Alvin G. Whitney, Guy Bartlett, and others. The bill was also approved by the State Conservation Council. It has been passed by both houses of the legislature, and signed by Governor Dewey. This is a notable accomplishment of our Conservation Committee. Stanley Grierson prepared a brochure on the Cormorant, which is available to all members by addressing him at Todd Road, R. F. D. No. 1, Katonah, New York.

We are fortunate in having Miss Audrey Wrede continue as Chairman of the Membership Committee. Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg has consented to serve as Chairman of the Program Committee which insures us an outstanding program for our 1954 meeting.

Mrs. Lester R. (Hazel Ellis) Loomis is completing her last year of teaching at Keuka College, and will make her future home at Hammond, La. She will be obliged to relinquish the chairmanship of the Publications and Research Committee, which she has held with distinction since its organization, but she will continue to serve on the committee and attend its meetings during the summer months. Fred Hall will assume the chairmanship of this important committee, under which the new State Book Committee, Dr. Gordon M. Meade, Chairman, and the sub-committee on Ecological Regions, Dr. William Webb, Chairman, will function.

While attending the Syracuse Sportsmen's show during the last week of February, I was pleased to see that the Onondaga Audubon Society had a booth in the show. They displayed mounted specimens of birds of prey, with particular accent on the hawks and their value to farmers and to sportsmen. This point was stressed in a mimeographed sheet which was picked up by many hunters and fishermen who stopped at the booth. May I suggest that other member clubs might well consider such an exhibit in their localities, when occasion arises, as the continued education of the general public is essential if we expect to conserve many of our threatened species for posterity.

If you feel that the Federation can be of aid to you in solving some particular problem, please do not hesitate to contact me, or any of my very efficient staff of officers.

HAROLD D. MITCHELL.

THE BEWICK'S WREN IN NEW YORK STATE

PETER PAUL KELLOGG

In mid-January 1954 Mrs. Davis Daboll of West Lake Road, Auburn, New York, called Dr. Sarah F. Hoyt at Cornell to report that she and her neighbor, Mrs. Earl Coalson, had just decided that the bird at their feeding station, thought to be a Carolina Wren, was apparently a Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewicki*). The bird appeared to be very tame about the feeding station and several times it had been caught in a trap by accident so that observers had a good opportunity to see it at close range.

Both Mrs. Hoyt and the writer made trips to Auburn in an effort to see the bird but it never came to the feeding station while either of us was there.

In late January Mr. Daboll photographed the bird on the feeding station with color film. These films were brought to Cornell on 6 February, and we were convinced that this Auburn bird was a Bewick's Wren, as the films show the diagnostic whitish tipping and barring to the outer tail feathers.

Correspondence by Mrs. Hoyt with Dr. Kenneth Parkes of the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, who is perhaps the most recent worker on the birds of New York State, brought the report from Parkes that he believes there is no specimen of a Bewick's Wren from New York State although there are two sight records for New York City. (*Audubon Field Notes*, Vol. 4, No. 4, p. 236.)

After I had told about the Bewick's Wren over Station WHCU and the Rural Radio Network on 6 February I received the following letter from Mrs. Arthur W. Cowell of 144 Ridge Avenue, State College, Pennsylvania.

February 11, 1954

"We spend the summer on East side of Keuka Lake. Last summer I drove into the yard of Mrs. Florence Taylor who has an Antique Shop about a mile south of Penn Yan on east side of lake. The house faces the lake with a yard at the back. There are trees, etc. On either side of the yard, separated by the width of the lot, perhaps 100 feet, are poles bearing wren houses.

"As we drove in I noticed both houses were occupied but by different species of wrens. One was a Bewick. I said to Mrs. Taylor, 'You have a rare wren here.' And she replied: 'I thought one of them acted funny.'

"Had I known that the bird had never been seen in the district I would have asked someone to look into it with me. I am familiar with the bird. They are not common here but are usually seen and have nested several times. I have read that the house wren and Bewick are not compatible but Dr. Clyde Todd, author of 'Birds of Western Pennsylvania,' doubts this. My find, for which I should have no particular credit because the two birds were plain as day, would substantiate this.

"Your broadcast of last week made me recall this happening."

On 16 February 1954 I received the following post card communication from Mrs. C. Castle Cunnings of 189 Wall Street, Corning, New York.

"One day in the last week of November, a friend who lives two blocks away called to ask about a strange bird under the damp shrubs in her yard. From her description, I suggested the Carolina

Wren which we have found in two places on Keuka Lake. On Dec. 4th I was amazed to see *two Bewick* wrens in my own yard. I was away a few days and did not see them again, probably one was the bird she saw."

That we have had so few records of this Wren in the past, and these three reports within a year suggests that the Bewick's Wren may be extending its range and perhaps should be placed high on the list of birds to watch for during the coming season.

It is possible that this report will bring out hitherto unknown records for the State either in the form of skins or as sight records.

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell, Univ.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Cormorant Bill

The Cormorant Bill passed the New York State Senate and Assembly, and has been signed by the Governor. Thus, the Double-crested Cormorant and the Common or European Cormorant are protected birds under Section 203 of the New York State Conservation Law. We again wish to thank Hi Clements for laying the groundwork, President Harold Mitchell for his support, Messrs. Alvin G. Whitney and Samuel Adams for appearing before committees in Albany, and all the members of the Federation, who responded in behalf of the Cormorant.

More Dam Business

During the very last hours of the New York State Legislature, a bill was passed authorizing the construction of Panther Mountain Dam. This was done without warning, and our real fight will be next year, when the bill must be passed again.

Echo Park Dam in Dinosaur National Monument has received the approval of President Eisenhower and it is now up to Congress to act. If we wish to prevent a dangerous precedent of having our National Parks and Monuments violated by special interest groups, we must write our U. S. Senators and Representatives in strong protest. Echo Park Dam will be only one of a series of dams, which are being planned for this scenic area.

Stanley Oliver Grierson, Conservation Chairman.

FEDERATION NEWS

Our next annual meeting will be held Aug. 28-29 at Ithaca, New York. Hosts will be the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, The Cayuga Bird Club and the Cornell Field Ornithology Club. The Chairman of the Program Committee for this meeting is Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg.

The Cornell University Press, 124 Roberts Place, Ithaca, released on March 15 a record called, *The Mockingbird Sings*. One individual Mockingbird imitates, with near perfection, the songs of more than thirty species. Price \$2.50.

Hi Clements has just received word from Mrs. Joseph F. Weiler, treasurer of the Baldwin Bird Club, that the Veterans Bird Club of the Northport Veterans Hospital is no longer in existence.

On behalf of the Federation I wish to thank Mr. Charles Spiker, Dr. Foster Gambrell, Mr. Frazer Turrentine, Mr. James Barlow and Mr. John Belknap for their fine past work of regional editing.

Here is a proposed timetable of operations for *The Kingbird*. What do you think of it?

<i>Regional Report Coverage</i>	<i>Deadline to Kingbird</i>	<i>Approx. Publ. Date</i>	<i>Issue Number</i>
Dec., Jan., Feb., March	April 15	May 15	No. 1—May Issue
April, May	June 15	July 15	No. 2—July Issue
June, July	Sept. 15	Oct. 15	No. 3—Oct. Issue
Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov.	Dec. 15	Jan. 15	No. 4—Jan. Issue

STATE BOOK COMMITTEE REPORT

The *State Bird Book Sub-Committee*, under chairmanship of Dr. Gordon M. Meade, would like to have each club conduct at least one breeding bird census in their area following the suggestions outlined in *Audubon Field Notes*, April 1950, Vol. IV, No. 2, page 185.

The purpose of the request is to introduce more people to the techniques of such a census and to start the gathering of data on breeding birds of New York.

The committee has been working on various criteria for validating records and wishes to publish at this time the criteria which will be used to evaluate breeding records.

This classification, in diminishing order of acceptability, applies to evidence of breeding.

Acceptable

1. Pair of birds seen, with nest discovered, and young flying or ready to fly. (evidence of success and location)

2. Nest and flying young discovered. (evidence of location but not complete success)

3. Young fledged, just on wing, not capable of prolonged flight. (evidence of success but not exact location)

4. Nest with young unquestionably identified. (evidence of location and incomplete success)

5. Nest with eggs unquestionably identified. (evidence of location and incomplete success)

6. Occupied nest, or nest with incubating bird and evidence of actual incubation. (evidence of location and incomplete success)

7. Identifiable nest of the year with evidence of breeding use. (evidence of attempt, known location)

8. Identifiable dead nestlings — no nest or parent birds found. (evidence of failure, general location)

9. Parent birds repeatedly seen carrying food, in restricted areas. (incomplete evidence of success, general location)

10. Identifiable eggs or eggshells, (no nest). (evidence of attempt, unknown location)

Unacceptable

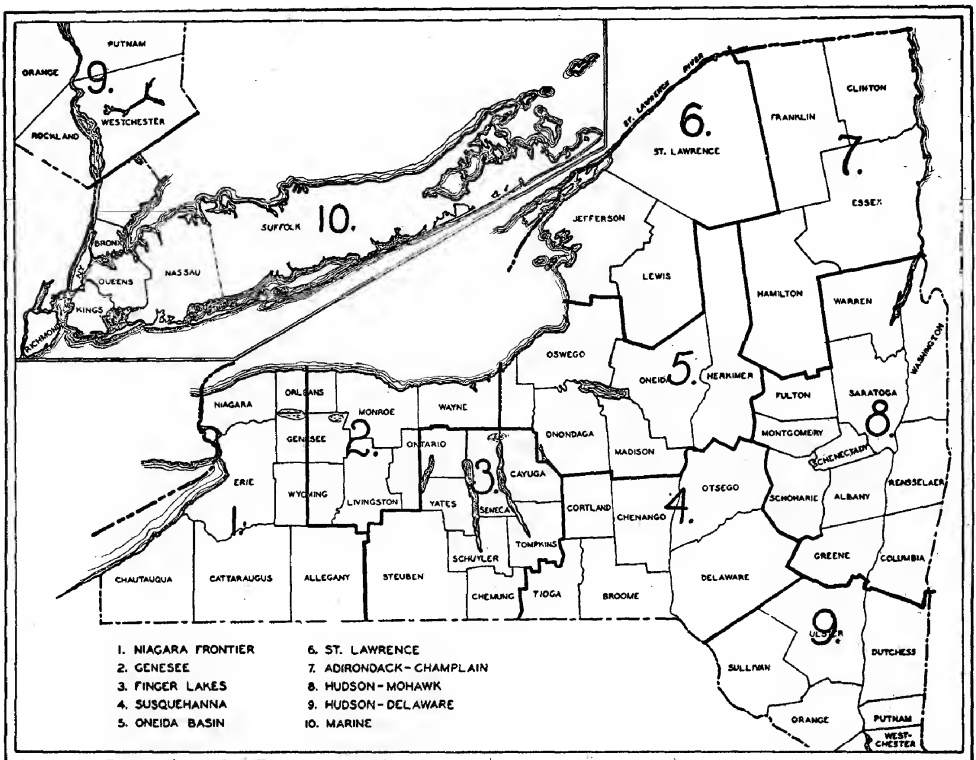
11. Parent or parent birds building nest. (evidence of attempt, known location)

12. Pair in courtship activity during breeding season. (presumed attempt)

13. Pair present during normal breeding season. (possibility of breeding)

14. Singing male on territory. (possibility)

15. Single bird present during nesting season.



REGIONAL REPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS DEC. 1 to MAR. 31

Many water and land birds were seen later in the fall, earlier in the spring and through the winter. An unusually good reproductive season in June and July 1953 and the lack of prolonged snow cover during the winter may partially explain the situation.

Northern species found an hospitable wintering area in New York this season. A few Goshawks and Rough-legged Hawks were seen. Both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were seen frequently near Buffalo, Cayuga Lake, near Oswego and Albany. Snowy Owls were reported from all areas except regions seven and eight. They seemed most common in region five where forty birds were seen. Saw-whet Owls were seen in small numbers in regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10. Gray Shrikes were seen in all regions except six. Most reporters called it a good flight year and Buffalo reported the best flight in many years. Arctic Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen again near Rochester and Buffalo. Purple Finches and Goldfinches seemed to be the predominant finches of the Southern Tier and the Adirondacks where they feasted on the abundant birch and hemlock seed crops. Siskins, Evening Grosbeaks, and the two crossbills were present but not in great numbers. Snow Buntings were reported in large flocks in the more open agricultural areas south of Lake Ontario but in small flocks elsewhere. The only regions not reporting them were regions six and seven.

Mourning Doves and Meadowlarks wintered successfully in above average numbers. Baltimore Orioles (normally wintering in Central America) were reported at three feeders in central and eastern New York. Seven species of warblers were seen during the winter from various areas.

The carolinian invasion continued and held ground already gained. Tufted Titmice were reported regularly south of Lake Ontario and the Mohawk River. A Bewick's Wren was seen in Auburn, N. Y., and Mockingbirds were reported from near Rochester, Geneva and Ithaca. Carolina Wrens seemed to winter well and Dickcissels were seen in regions three and nine during the winter.

Three rare western species were reported. Bohemian Waxwings were seen at Rochester and in Sullivan Co. A Black-headed Grosbeak was seen at Katonah and another probable wintered at Idlewild. An immature Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen at Jones Beach.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

The lowest point in Region One is the Lake Ontario shore line, 246 ft. above sea level. From a rather high embankment here, the land slopes very gently upward toward the south. This is the Ontario Plain, approximately ten miles wide. It ends at the Niagara Escarpment, which parallels the Lake Ontario shore. Southward from the Niagara Escarpment is the Huron Plain, about 600 ft. above sea level. The Huron Plain is narrow, being in turn terminated to the south by the Onondaga Escarpment, which stretches from North Buffalo to a point just north of Batavia, and beyond. The Erie Plain, the southernmost of the three narrow steps up to the Allegheny Plateau, averages some 750 ft. in altitude. It is irregularly shaped; on it are located Buffalo, Batavia, Alden, East Aurora, Orchard Park, and Hamburg,

as well as Silver Creek, Dunkirk, Fredonia, and Westfield along the south shore of Lake Erie. The Portage Escarpment to the south of the Erie Plain rises as the northern limit of the Allegheny uplands, which thus occupy somewhat more than half of our territory. This southern, hilly portion contains rolling land, gradually reaching higher altitudes which culminate in our highest point of 2548 ft. (Alma Hill) near Pikeville, Allegany County.

Thus, by reason of great differences in altitude, western New York presents a reverse picture, with sub-Canadian conditions in the mountains to the south and sub-Carolinian affinities on the lower plains to the north. This phenomenon would readily account for the presence of northern species in the southern tier of counties, but is insufficient in itself to explain the presence of some of our southern species on the two northern plains. To understand this, we must appreciate the part played by the portion of the Erie Plains which follows the entire northern shore line of Lake Erie from Detroit to Fort Erie. Along this important migration and emigration route such species as Cerulean Warbler, Carolina Wren, and Orchard Oriole reach the northern part of our territory.

This northern half of western New York, comprising the three lower plains, is characterized for the most part by urban and suburban areas, open fields, and occasional patches of deciduous woodland in which elms are dominant. Important exceptions are the marshy areas of the great Tonawanda, Oak Orchard (Alabama), and Bergen swamps of the Huron Plain. Aside from these swamps there is little really wild territory in western New York excepting portions of the Allegheny uplands. Here the typical beech-maple-birch association is often augmented by hemlocks, and these higher, cooler forests, cut deeply by creeks and brooks, provide nesting areas for birds both of Canadian and Carolinian affinities.

Lake Chautauqua is the only large lake in western New York, though numerous smaller ones dot the area, these being for the most part confined to the Allegheny foothills. We are extremely fortunate, however, in having as our boundaries two of the Great Lakes and the Niagara River which connects them. These waters are very attractive to ducks, geese, swans, and gulls, and at the same time present natural barriers for shorebirds, hawks, and many species of land birds, which tend to avoid crossing them by following along their shores on both spring and fall migrations. Thus our major city, Buffalo, is situated in the very heart of a particularly fine birding area.

The 1953-1954 winter season gave us a variety of weather and the weather gave us a variety of birds. The total of 91 species for January was, I believe, without precedent. December was very mild, and many of the half-hardy birds were encouraged to remain with us. January was cold, — severe enough to thin these birds out and bring in many interesting visitors from farther north. The cold weather persisted until mid-February, when a protracted spell of mild, spring-like weather brought migrants into western New York in unprecedented numbers. Early March freezes must have seriously embarrassed the geese and ducks, and the twenty inches of snow which covered the northern half of our territory on the 29th of March surprised all the ground-feeding birds. I drove from Buffalo to Rochester on the 30th, and found Killdeer, Prairie Horned Larks, Tree Sparrows, Song Sparrows, and Robins lining the roadsides where the snow plows had bared the ground.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loons were reported early — ten on the Genesee River March 14 at Belmont (McMurtry). Two Red-throated Loons December 27 in the Niagara Gorge (Woldman *et al.*). Horned Grebe arrived March 27 at Findlay Lake (Elderkin) and the 29th at Bowangda Club Pond (McMurtry). Pied-billed Grebes actually wintered, though sparingly; migrants appeared from March

10th on. Great Blue Herons wintered at Buckhorn Island and Night Herons in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo. Migrant Great Blues appeared March 18 and 19. No records of migrant Night Herons or of Bitterns were received. A few swan were reported by the radio to have alighted at Niagara Falls March 1 (very early). Two or three were seen at Buckhorn Island on the 5th and 6th, but as the weather remained cold there were no further reports until the 28th and 29th, when the barometer fell and the snow storm mentioned above broke over the northern counties. Hundreds of swans descended on the lakes and ponds of Allegheny, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties. Mrs. McMurtry counted a total of 156 on eight ponds; Mrs. Thompson 26 on Silver lake and two on her own pond; Eaton states "many reported throughout Olean area 28, 29, 30 March"; and Elderkin observed swans on Chautauqua and Findlay Lakes, and saw 60 fly over Jamestown on the 28th. Canada Geese were last reported in 1953 on December 6 (Bird Island, Axtells). Responding to the mild weather in February, they returned very early, one being seen February 20 at Derby (Braunberns), 200 on the 21st at Oak Orchard (Praemassings), and "a large flock" at Wellsville on the 28th (McMurtry). Their numbers increased at Oak Orchard until a peak of 10,000 was reached on March 28. One Snow Goose at Oak Orchard on March 16 was joined by a second on the 27th; a Blue Goose also appeared on the latter date. Gadwalls were last reported January 11 by Schaffner (four at Niagara Falls), and had not returned (as they usually do) before March 31. One European Widgeon was noted by many observers on March 28 at Oak Orchard. Pintails arrived at Wolcottsville on a date which broke all records, — 200 on February 21. Their numbers reached a high of 5,000 there on March 18. Other dabblers arrived on comparatively normal dates. Ring-necked Ducks arrived with February's spring weather (five on the east branch of the river on the 22nd by Axtells), and were reported sparingly throughout March. Canvasbacks came in rapidly in December, and 9,281 were reported on our Christmas Bird Count held January 1. This is normal for recent winters, but such numbers were unknown here a few years back. Redheads were rather well represented in the Scaup and Canvasback flocks on the river and in the harbor. From two to five Harlequin Ducks spent the winter commuting between the Three Sisters Islands and the Horseshoe rapids at the Falls. An Eider (sp.?) was observed at Bird Island December 3 (Schaffner). White-winged were the only scoters reported, and they were almost entirely confined to Lake Ontario, where they apparently wintered in good numbers.

HAWKS - OWLS: Vultures appeared March 22, 24, 27, 28 (normal). Goshawks were not reported in subject period until latter half of March, when three were seen. Rough-legged Hawks were well represented in the northern counties and one at York's Corners January 24 (McMurtry) was a rarity for that district. Bald Eagles continue to maintain their slender toe-hold in usual haunts. Red-shoulders returned early, the first one being reported from Olean February 28 (Eaton). A Virginia Rail, brought to the museum from Lackawanna December 11, was banded by Mrs. Fisk and released at Buckhorn Island, where Gallinules had been seen as late as December 6 (Axtells). A few Coots were noted in December and January, but the first migrant was reported from Lake Chautauqua February 28 (Parker). March's colder weather slowed their migration down and they were not seen in numbers until March 26. Killdeer were most responsive to the spring-like weather of February and were reported many times before the end of the month, from Wellsville (16th, McMurtry) and Jamestown to Youngstown and Oak Orchard. One Woodcock arrived during that period, but was found dead on the 25th (Elma, Byron); otherwise the species' first record was March 14 (Batavia, Mahaney). One Wilson's Snipe wintered at Williamsville, the first migrant being noted on March 19 at Oak Orchard (Mitchell). Four lesser Yellowlegs and four Pectoral Sandpipers were observed at Wolcottsville March 28 (many observers), breaking all records. Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were present rather frequently, but Kumlien's was seen only once. Ring-bills were more numerous than usual throughout the winter, and migrants came in exceptionally early, a flock of 26 being reported at St. Bonaventure on February 26 (Eaton). A very few Bonaparte's Gulls wintered (rare), but migrants were unreported prior to April (late). There was one record of Little Gull. A single Brunnich's Murre was closely studied at the foot of Porter Ave., Buffalo, on March 7 by Brownstein. Snowy Owls were reported very frequently from all areas. Saw-whets were seen twice, once at Wilson January 1 (Klabundes), and one (collected) near Seneca Junction December 13 (Eaton).

SWIFTS - SHRIKES: Unaccountably, Kingfishers did not winter. Mrs. McMurtry reported them throughout March, but elsewhere they did not arrive until the last third of the month. Many Flickers wintered, probable migrants appearing in mid-March. One more Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker was reported, this one at Youngstown from February 7 (Mitchell *et al.*) to 14 (Vaughan, Klabundes). Phoebe, Prairie Horned Larks, and Tree Swallows arrived on the dot. A nice incursion of Titmice was notable in January and February. Many Robins wintered, but we suspect the three reported from Olean on February 27 (Eaton), the six at Scio (McMurtry) and the 30 at Batavia (Mahaney) on the 28th, were our first migrants. Bluebirds wintered at Lewiston (very rare), the first migrants arriving March 4 (Castile, Thompson) and 6 (East Elma, Simmons). It was a remarkable winter for Gray Shrikes, — more records by far than any recent year.

VIREOS - WARBLERS: A Myrtle Warbler was seen from January 6 to February 2 at Lewiston (Klabundes). Migrants arrived first at Batavia (March 19, Annaball).

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS: More Meadowlarks than usual wintered, but apparently migrants did not arrive until well into March. Red-wings swarmed the area in February, being reported from no less than eleven places, beginning with two individuals at Dayton on the 16th (Beardslee). Grackles were also reported early, the first record being of two birds near Allegany February 15 (Eaton), 48 Cowbirds being counted in the same flock. Mrs. McMurtry considers Cardinals more numerous in Allegany County. Redpolls were not reported, but Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were seen in average numbers. Both crossbills were seen, but the only large group reported was one of fifty Red Crossbills near Olean all winter (Eaton). Goldfinches were numerous in the southern counties, seldom reported elsewhere. A Singing Field Sparrow was reported from Grand Island March 27 (Rice). A February 28 Fox Sparrow at Alden (Wolfing) was probably an extremely early migrant. Song Sparrows arrived the first week in March. Longspurs were reported only twice, but Snow Buntings were present in all areas, and most records were of very large flocks.

Clark S. Beardslee, 132 McKinley Ave., Kenmore, N. Y.

REGION 2 — GENESEE

December was 5.8 degrees warmer than average and bays and ponds remained open late into the month. Very little snow fell during the month and an influx of rarities was noted. Rochester reported 76 species on their Christmas Census — an all time high. Weather in January was about normal but February was quite mild, probably accounting for the early waterfowl records. March was quite wintry but nevertheless migrants showed up on time towards the end of the month.

LOONS - DUCKS: Two reports of Holboell's Grebe, one on Dec. 6 and ten migrants on Mar 20 (Paine Beach); six White Pelicans were observed off Shore Acres in Lake Ontario on Mar. 28 (Taylor, Conway) and two Western Grebes were seen on Irondequoit Bay Jan. 3 (Tanghe, Dobson). The last Black-crowned Night Heron and Bitterns were seen on Dec. 12. An immature Gannet was seen at Ling Road Outlet on two week-ends in Dec. Many Canada Geese were seen on Mar. 28 flying west over the Rochester area. It was estimated that 20,000 geese had crossed a north-south line which extended out into the lake and ten miles inland. On the same day Barry saw 13 Blue Geese also flying west. One Snow Goose was seen in Dec. at Hamlin Park. An adult male Harlequin Duck remained from Dec. 20 to Jan. 1 at Ling Road Outlet. Later in January the same or another bird was reported at Webster Beach Park. A female or immature Common Eider was seen on Jan. 24 at Hamlin Park (Barry, Van Beurder). First arrival dates on dabbling ducks included Pintail Mar. 15, American Baldpate Mar. 18, Shoveller Mar. 22, Green-winged Teal Mar. 28, and Gadwall Mar. 28. Two Surf Scoters were reported in 1954 and White-winged Scoters were seen in small numbers.

HAWKS - OWLS: Single Goshawks were seen in Dec. and Feb., possibly the same bird (Listman). A Golden Eagle was seen at Hamlin Park on Mar. 14 (Schaffner, Nathan). The first Turkey Vulture was seen on Mar. 19. A Florida Gallinule was seen at Ling Road in Jan. Last shorebirds of 1953 seen were Killdeer Dec. 5, Greater Yellow-legs Dec. 12, Red-backed Sandpiper Dec. 12 and Wilson's Snipe Dec. 26. No Purple Sandpipers were seen in 1953. The first recorded shorebirds in 1954 were Killdeer Mar. 20, Lesser Yellow-legs Mar. 27, Woodcock Mar. 11, Wilson's Snipe Mar. 20, and Pectoral Sandpiper Mar. 24. Four Saw-whet Owls were reported in 1954 and one Barn Owl Jan. 31 - Mar. 31. There were a few Snowy Owls in the Rochester area.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: An arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, first seen on our Christmas Census, stayed until Jan. 16 at Genesee Valley Park (Muchmore). The first Phoebe was seen on Mar. 27 and the first Tree Swallow on Mar. 20. Fifty Horned Larks were seen in a field near Mendon on Jan. 2 (Listman); and two more on March 31. A Mockingbird has been coming regularly to a feeder on Hampton Blvd. in Greece (Monroe Co.) Dec. - Jan. In Pittsford (Monroe Co.) a Tufted Titmouse visited a feeder from Dec. - Mar. A Catbird was seen at Durand Park (McKinney, Van Beurden). The first Bluebird was seen Feb. 28 and the first Pipit Mar. 28. A few Carolina and Long-billed Marsh Wrens again wintered in small numbers near Rochester. The first Hermit Thrush was seen on Mar. 31. Shrikes were more common than usual this winter.

WARBLERS - SPARROWS: A few Myrtle Warblers wintered in widely scattered areas. Migrant blackbirds came early this year with Red-wings seen on Mar. 20. There were a few reports of White-winged Crossbills with a high number of 15 on Feb. 13. An Oregon Junco was reported in Durand Park on Dec. 6 (McKinney, Van Beurden). A Towhee was seen in early Dec. On Mar. 28 approx. eight hundred and eighty Lapland Longspurs were seen flying east accompanied by 10 Snow Buntings. The first Sparrows reported were Fox Mar. 20, Field Mar. 31, and Savannah Mar. 28.

Harry Van Beurden, 246 Tremont Street, Rochester 8, N. Y.

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

The month of December was relatively warm and windy with several thunderstorms and one cold snap in the middle of the month. The last of January and early February brought some unusually cold weather, but the Finger Lakes section, for the most part, escaped the heavy snows of other sections of the state. Because of the light snow cover, birds found natural food easy to find, although ice at times drove them in greater numbers to feeding stations. Winter finches were low in numbers, with the exception of Purple Finches, which were conspicuous everywhere. Many Robins, Mourning Doves, Flickers and Killdeer wintered with us, and hawks seemed more abundant than usual.

LOONS — DUCKS: Loons were rare on Keuka Lake this year, in less than usual numbers elsewhere. Great Blue Herons wintered over near Geneva (Gambrell) and Elmira (C. V. A. S.) 2 adult and 1 imm. Whistling Swans were spotted at Myers Point on Cayuga in early January, then moved to the south end of the lake and were seen daily. On 3/21, Swans were seen on Keuka Lake. An American Brant was reported from 1/19 to 3/19 on Keuka (Spiker et al) and Brant and Blue Geese were seen by the Munfords at Montezuma.

The large rafts of Redheads and Greater Scaups at the north end of Seneca Lake had mostly left by the middle of March (Ward). The Guthries reported Green-winged Teal and Wood Ducks at Branchport on 1/2 and Gadwalls and Shovellers were seen at Montezuma 3/17 (Walker). Two Wood Ducks were also seen on Canandaigua on 2/14 by the Field Ornithology Club of Cornell. Fudge reported 6 Pintails at Elmira 2/20.

Hooded Mergansers were reported in small numbers on all the lakes.

The Waterfowl Census taken by the F. O. C. on Feb. 14 resulted in a count of 23,590. Mallards and Blacks and Old-Squaws were down, Redheads, Golden-eyes and Buffle-heads about the same, Coot, Mergansers, and Canvasbacks were up over counts in 1953.

HAWKS — OWLS: Turkey Vultures at Lamoka Lake 3/19 (Mrs. Whittaker) and at Montezuma 3/28. A Goshawk was seen at Elmira 3/7 (Andrus). The Bald Eagles were seen at the nest in Montezuma on 2/21 by Walker, and were observed changing places on 2/27. A Bald Eagle was also reported over Elmira on 1/12 and again on 3/12.

Red-tailed Hawks were seen throughout the Region in usual numbers. Red-shouldered Hawks were recorded in Jan. Feb. and March around Keuka. Marsh Hawks wintered in the Ithaca area, but were absent from the usual wintering places near Elmira.

An increase in Sparrow Hawks was noted both near Elmira, and along the valley from Avoca to Corning.

An injured Virginia Rail was found in the snow on a street in Freeville on 2/11 (Dickinson) and died two days later. A Florida Gallinule was reported at Montezuma on 3/27 (Hewitt, et al). Killdeer were reported from several points in early January. A Wilson's Snipe was seen at Dresden 1/2 (Lerch).

Ring-billed Gulls are still increasing in numbers on Cayuga Lake. An Iceland Gull was reported at the southern end on 3/4 (H. Howard) and a Glaucous Gull on 3/2 (K. Thorp).

Long-eared Owls were reported at two places near Elmira, and one at Branchport 3/14 (Mrs. Lerch). A Short-eared Owl at Waterloo on 1/11 (Walker) and from 1/10 through February at Branchport (Guthrie), but there seemed to be no invasion of this species. Reports of Saw-whet Owls were more common than usual in the Region; Branchport 3/11 (R. Guthrie), Geneva in January (Wellington) and Elmira 1/27 (Fudge). Actually there may be no increase in the number of these small owls, but instead an increase in observer-hours.

While one or two Snowy Owls were reported from all sections and one was seen daily on the Cornell campus from the first week of December, the invasion this year was not equal to some of the past ones.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported near Waterloo 2/7 (Walker) and at Union Springs 2/11 (Hazard).

A Kingbird reported on 3/17 at Wellsburg (Smith) would certainly have to be considered an 'accidental'.

Tree Swallows appeared at Ithaca 3/27 (Thorp) and Elmira 3/28 (York).

A Tufted Titmouse was seen daily at Clifton Springs (Munford). Fewer Red-breasted Nuthatches reported this winter, but one was at a feeder regularly on River Road, Elmira.

The first report of a Bewick's Wren in upstate New York came from Auburn, where one appeared at feeder at Coalson home in November, came regularly there and to Daboll's until late February. It was photographed in color by Mr. Daboll.

Dr. Guthrie reports that the Carolina Wren seems to be establishing itself as a resident in Keuka Park area. One also visited feeder daily in Etna from November until middle of February (Hoyt).

A Mockingbird wintered near Geneva (Gambrell), two near Ithaca, and there was one report of an injured Brown Thrasher in Ithaca in January. An injured Catbird wintered in the Keuka area.

Robins were reported migrating a week earlier than usual near Avoca (Carter) and in Ithaca these were noted still in large flocks into April.

A Ruby-crowned Kinglet spent three weeks at my Etna feeder in December, and fought its reflection in the window furiously (Hoyt). One was seen at Penn Yan 12/14 (Orcutt) and at Elmira 12/20 (Andrus).

10 American Pipits were reported 12/21 at Ithaca (K. Thorp). Gray Shrikes were fairly common in all areas this winter.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Not as many reports were received of wintering Myrtle Warblers as last year, but 6 were seen on the Jan. 2 census of the Chemung Valley Aud. Soc., and they occurred in two sections of Ithaca throughout the winter.

A female Orange-crowned Warbler was at the Smith's feeder in Wellsburg from Dec. 4 to Jan. 9, seen by many observers. Pine Warbler at Dresden 12/15 (Lerch), Palm Warbler at Keuka Park 1/31 (Mrs. Loomis), Northern Yellowthroat at Branchport 1/31 (F. Guthrie).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Baltimore Oriole Dec. and Jan. at Caywood (Mrs. W. M. Wagner). A Rusty Blackbird was seen at Dresden 1/2 (Lerch), Redwings 12/27 at Waterloo (Walker) and a Bronzed Grackle 1/31 at Geneva (Ward). Cardinals seemed on the increase in the Geneva area, were down in numbers around Elmira. A female Dickcissel was reported at Jacksonville 2/17 (Graham).

The Finger Lakes saw only a few Evening Grosbeaks this winter, at scattered points. Purple Finches were the common winter finch. Goldfinches were reported as rare at Keuka, with none seen in March. 14 at Avoca on 2/27 fed on seeds of arbor vitae. The writer had Goldfinches with Purple Finches through Jan. and Feb. and the former were seen feeding on arbor vitae several times.

2 Pine Grosbeaks at Ithaca 2/1 (Short). Also reported by Munfords at Clifton Springs. Pine Siskins 3/28 (Munfords).

2 Red-eyed Towhees at Penn Yan Dec. through Feb; 1 in Elmira and 1 in Breesport at feeding stations.

Slate-colored Juncos somewhat more abundant than usual. Field Sparrows at Branchport 1/2 (Mrs. Guthrie) and on same date at Elmira.

Fox Sparrow 3/15 near Ithaca (A. C. Lane). A Lincoln's Sparrow was observed closely near Elmira on 2/20 (Fudge). A Swamp Sparrow at Elmira 1/2 (C. V. A. S.) 3 Lapland Longspurs at the Elmira airport on 1/17 (Orbison & Rowley).

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

Region four consists of the six counties of Tioga, Cortland, Broome, Chenango, Otsego and Delaware. Rolling and hilly uplands cut by a few broad river valleys, many narrow valleys and ravines of smaller streams, would characterize the whole region except for those parts of Delaware county in the Catskills which are truly mountainous.

Drainage is almost entirely by way of the Susquehanna and its tributaries, the Chenango, Tioughnioga, Unadilla and Otsego Rivers. Most of Delaware County and the eastern parts of Broome County are drained by headwater tributaries of the Delaware River. Some small parts of Cortland County drain into Skaneateles and Cayuga Lakes. The only important lakes in the region are Otsego and Schuyler Lakes in Otsego County and a small part of Skaneateles Lake bordering on Cortland County. There are a moderate number of smaller lakes and ponds.

Elevation above sea level varies from about 800 ft. in the Susquehanna and Delaware river valleys to about 3400 feet at Mount Pisga in the Catskills. Outside of the Catskills the uplands have an elevation between 1200 and 2100 feet, being higher in the north and east and lower in the west. The differential between uplands and valleys ranges between 250 feet in some parts of Tioga County to 600 or 800 feet in Otsego and Chenango Counties. The whole region is on the northern spurs of the Alleghany Mountains.

Almost invariably the hills, especially the side slopes, are wooded, and the river valleys are cleared for farming. The birch-beech-hard maple association accounts for a large part of the forest covering on the hills with the oak-hickory group mixed in on the south slopes, and some balsam and spruce in the Catskills. Along the river banks in the valleys the trees are mostly sycamore, basswood, elm and willow with some ash and silver maple. An appreciable amount of land, especially on the hill tops, is deserted farmland which is going wild again. The characteristic trees in these areas are gray and black birch, poplar and red maple with a little pitch pine mixed in.

Industry can be discounted as an important influence on the bird population of the region. Manufacturing is almost if not completely confined to Oneonta, Norwich, Cortland, Bainbridge, Sidney and the Triple Cities area.

There is only one interested club in Region Four, The Naturalists' Club of Binghamton. There are several unattached individual observers in Chenango County and western Delaware County that push the boundaries of the effectively covered area out in those directions, but Cortland, Otsego and most of Delaware and Tioga Counties are virtually "untouched" as far as *The Kingbird* is concerned. The search is still going on. Anyone in those areas please note!

Generally speaking, this has been a mild winter in the Susquehanna Region. There was some cold weather in December and January, but it came in spurts and was more than offset by the warmest February in the history of the Triple Cities area. A few of the first land bird migrants showed up a little early, but most were just about on schedule or even somewhat late, perhaps because of a cool March.

LOONS — DUCKS: Wintering Black Ducks and American Mergansers were present in the usual small numbers, but migrants of both species were more numerous this year than last. Again wintering Mallards were absent around Binghamton (Naturalists' Club). A Whistling Swan was taken into custody by the Endicott Police Department March 29, apparently injured, but when turned over to the Conservation Department was found to be all right and was released. A Lesser Scaup spent the latter half of February on the Chenango River inside the city limits of Binghamton (Bemont).

So far this has been a good year for Hooded Mergansers. One female was seen Jan. 1 at Chenango Valley State Park (Bemont, Harris). The next report was Mar. 7 when 2 were seen at Campville (Washburn). There have been a half dozen other reports with the maximum being 9 at Deposit Mar. 27 (S. Wilson).

Some first dates: At Deposit Pied-billed Grebe 3/24, Green-winged Teal 3/28, Wood Duck 3/20, Bufflehead 3/29, Old Squaw 3/30. Red-breasted Merganser 3/30 (S. Wilson). At White's Pond near Norwich Great Blue Heron 3/27 (R. White). At Binghamton Green Heron 3/28, Baldpate 3/7 (Nat. Club). At Campville Pintail 2/21, Ring-necked Duck 2/21, American Goldeneye 3/7 (Nat. Club).

HAWKS — OWLS: A Turkey Vulture was reported Mar. 20 and 2 more Mar. 29 at Deposit (Wilson).

Buteos and Accipiters have been non-existent around Binghamton all winter as usual, and there were very few reports from other areas. A Bald Eagle was seen Mar. 16 and again Mar. 18 at Deposit (Wilson). The first Killdeer was at Choconut Center Feb. 25 (Sheffield's), and 2 Wilson's Snipe were at Boland's Marsh Mar. 28 (Nat. Club).

53 Herring Gulls and one Ring-billed Gull Jan. 1 around Binghamton tells the gull story for the whole winter and that is just about normal.

Wintering Mourning Doves have been reported fairly frequently.

There were 3 different reports of Snowy Owls during December. One of these was an injured bird found near Oxford 12/29 (Manworren). It is now in the Ross Park Zoo in Binghamton. Another Snowy Owl was seen near McGrow Feb. 13 (Fessenden, Doren). A Barred Owl was heard near Deposit Dec. 5 (S. Wilson) and a Long-eared Owl was at Bainbridge Jan. 6 (E. J. Smith).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: A Belted Kingfisher was seen regularly along the Chenango River at Chenango Bridge all winter (Bemont). At least two Flickers are known to have wintered around Binghamton. One near the middle of town (Fessenden) and one at Chenango Bridge (Bemont). The first Sapsucker was seen Mar. 30 near Binghamton (H. Morsi).

Three Phoebe's were seen Mar. 20 at Deposit (Wilson). The first one elsewhere was at White's Pond Mar. 28 (S. White). The first Tree Swallows were at Binghamton Mar. 27 (Sheffield's). A large flock of over 100 Horned Larks was seen Feb. 7 at Nanticoke (Nat. Club).

Tufted Titmice are definitely on the increase in the Binghamton area. They have been reported from a half dozen localities this year as compared to none last year. The only other report in the region in recent years came from Mr. W. S. Knight of Unadilla who wrote that one was seen there Jan. 20, 1952. The two Carolina Wrens at Chenango Bridge wintered through successfully and have been in full song since Mar. 24 (Bemont).

The first obviously migrating Robins were a flock of 15 seen Feb. 28 at Colesville (Vogelin's) but there were several reports of individual birds earlier, from several areas. A late Hermit Thrush was seen Dec. 5 at Deposit (Wilson). The first Bluebirds were 2 at Deposit Mar. 4 (Wilson). Some very early Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen Mar. 19 near Binghamton (Sheffield's & H. Morsi).

An immature Gray Shrike was seen at Chenango Bridge Jan. 16 and presumably the same bird was caught and banded Jan. 19. It was released several miles away and wasn't seen again. One at Deposit Jan. 31 (Wilson). One at Unadilla Feb. 13. One Mar. 20 and two Mar. 28 at Bainbridge and two more Mar. 28 at Afton (E. J. Smith). One seen at Union Center in late November (C. Beasor) was reported too late for the last issue.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Two Myrtle Warblers seen Jan. 1 (Nat. Club) at Binghamton, were the only wintering warblers noted.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: A wintering Meadowlark was seen at White's Pond Jan. 15 (R. White). The first migrants were two at Cincinnatus Mar. 5 (A. Carter). Red-wings arrived very suddenly Feb. 20 when a flock of over 50 were seen near Binghamton (Bemont) and 3 near Deposit (Wilson). They have been very much in evidence ever since. The first females in Binghamton were seen Mar. 27. A Baltimore Oriole appeared at a feeder in Hillcrest near Binghamton in late November and stayed around until late in February (C. O'Brien). This report was verified by the writer and at least one other observer. The first Rusty Blackbirds were 12 at Boland's Marsh Mar. 27 (Sheffield's). Two cowbirds Mar. 3 at Deposit (Wilson) and 3 Mar. 4 at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith).

A flock of 20 Evening Grosbeaks spent the winter at a feeder in Sidney, but there were very few others reported. Purple Finches have been very common near

Deposit since Jan. 2 — 116 were counted at a feeder on Feb. 8 and 10 and during March the daily count was near 200 several times (Wilson). More normal numbers in other areas. A flock of about 30 Redpolls was seen at White's Pond Mar. 15 and again Mar. 20 (R. & S. White). There have been only scattered reports of Pine Siskins, but Goldfinches have been quite common through the winter in both Binghamton and Deposit. The same is true of Slate-colored Juncos, which were also seen regularly in Bainbridge (E. J. Smith). An early Field Sparrow record — 4 at Deposit Mar. 4 (Wilson). A White-throated Sparrow showed up at Mr. Wilson's feeder Jan. 8 and has been there ever since. Fox Sparrows appeared at Deposit Mar. 4 and at Binghamton Mar. 14. They have been noted frequently since with the highest count being over 20 at Binghamton Mar. 30 (H. Marsi). 6 Swamp Sparrows were present at Boland's Marsh up to Jan. 1 (Bemont). After a poor year last year Snow Buntings are back to normal this year and numerous large flocks have been seen. One flock of over 1000 birds was found near Hawleyton by Miss Helen J. Kent Feb. 2.

Leslie E. Bemont, R. D. #3, Binghamton, N. Y.

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

The counties of Herkimer, Oneida, Madison, Oswego, Onondaga, and that part of Cayuga north of the Seneca River constitute Region Five. It has within its boundaries many population centers such as Syracuse, Utica and Rome, and many lakes and rivers.

The most prominent water feature of the region is Oneida Lake with its main tributaries, Chittenango, Wood, Fish, and Scriba Creeks, and its outlet, the Oneida River, which in turn flows into the Oswego River. Other important bodies of water are Skaneateles and Otisco Lakes of the Finger Lakes, Onondaga Lake, Delta Lake, and the Fulton Chain in Herkimer County. The northeastern part of the region drains largely through the Moose River, the eastern part largely through the Mohawk, and most of the western half through the Seneca and Oneida Rivers, which form the Oswego River. The northwest corner is drained through the Salmon and Little Salmon Rivers and their tributaries. The area around Hamilton drains south through the Chenango River.

The lower elevations are centered largely along Lake Ontario, around Oneida Lake, and along the Mohawk River. These low altitude areas, which tend toward Appalachian and Carolinian bird life, are encroached upon by the hill country on the south (the northern limit of the Alleghany Plateau), by the Tug Hill Plateau on the north, and the southwestern and western fringe of the Adirondacks in Herkimer County. Generally, as one passes from the low altitude areas to those of higher elevation, the percentage of forested land increases, although little of the wooded area is in original stands.

Three of the major life zones are present in the Region. The vast majority of the country falls in the maple-beech-birch-hemlock class, but the northern and eastern part of Herkimer County has a good percentage of the spruce-fir association. Very small areas of the oak-hickory group are found in the outlet valleys of the Finger Lakes, along the south shore of Oneida Lake, and in those parts of Oswego and Cayuga County abutting on Lake Ontario. Swamp-wise, four very rich areas are located in Region 5 — 1.) the large wooded swamps scattered around Oneida Lake, 2.) the large aquatic plant marshes of the Sandy Pond area, 3.) the spruce-sphagnum bog known as Cicero Swamp, between Syracuse and Oneida Lake, and 4.) the many flooded areas, both wooded and cat-tail, along Lake Ontario between the Salmon River and Fair Haven. Many marshes are also located along the Seneca and Oneida Rivers and at the southern ends of the Finger Lakes.

Unfortunately, only one bird club, the Onondaga Audubon Society, regularly "birds" the region, but active and effective contacts have been made with a small group at Oneida and Westernville. A group at Utica are currently concerned with the organization of a local birding group. The major share of birding interest in the region falls on such places as the Oneida Lake area, Oswego (in the winter), Sandy Pond (in summer and fall), and various representative areas near Syracuse (eg. Green Lakes, for birds of heavy timber; Three Rivers Game Management Area, for birds of interspersed country and breeding game birds; Camillus Valley, for birds of southern associations; and Selkirk, for some of the uncommon breeding warblers and the hickory-oak group birds).

Most of the area, particularly the eastern half, the southern edge of the Tug Hill Plateau, and that portion of Herkimer County (laughingly called the "Panhandle") jutting onto the Adirondacks, remains ornithologically unexplored.

The mild season of the fall continued without interruption until 12/30, when a severe cold spell began, which reached its peak about 1/10, abated slightly, and then returned with renewed vigor until the third week of January. Evidence of the cold weather of this period was the almost complete freezing of both Onondaga Lake and the Oswego River, and the consequent concentrations of birds in the few open spots along the river and in Oswego Harbor. The end of January saw a definite break in the cold weather, which was abruptly terminated by a second, shorter, but almost as severe cold spell in early and mid-February. At the cessation of this cold spell, the spring migration began and had assumed good proportions by early March. A two week cold spell, early to mid-March, stagnated the migration; by 3/21 migration had resumed and noticeable flights were on the move; a 12-inch snow on 3/29 again halted the migration to the end of the period. The winter was notable for 1.) the many half-hardies staying with us, 2.) the really spectacular flights of Snowy Owls and Northern Shrikes, 3.) the numbers of "white-winged" gulls along the Oswego River, 4.) the reduced numbers of Rough-legged Hawks and Short-eared Owls wintering in the Region, and 5.) the very poor showing of winter finches.

LOONS — DUCKS: Last date for Common Loons was 12/27 on Oneida Lake; no wintering records this year. Horned and Pied-billed Grebes wintering in small numbers (1 - 3) at Oswego and Skaneateles. Double-crested Cormorant — 1 immature bird wintered at Oswego Harbor; seen on Onondaga Audubon Society Field Trip 1/24 and 3/7. Great Blue Heron — no wintering birds; first spring date 3/7 at Fayetteville. Whistling Swan — 7 birds at Brewerton, Oneida Lake on 3/28; stayed for about a week; despite its more common status west of us, this bird is a rather uncommon transient through Syracuse area. Canada Geese — first spring date of 57 on 2/28 at Cross Lake. Gadwall — 2 winter records of this bird, which is uncommon here even in migration; 1 at Onondaga Lake on 1/10, 1 at Baldwinsville on 2/14. Baldpate — 1 at Baldwinsville 2/14. Baldpate and Pintail — migrating through early and in smaller than usual numbers. Tremendous numbers of ducks wintered along the Oswego River and in Oswego Harbor; high counts by the O. A. S. on several winter trips are: Greater Scaup—3000, Golden-Eye—500, American Merganser—5000. Though this has been the highest count of American Mergansers in several years, the numbers of Old-Squaw, Buffle-head, and Canvas-backs wintering in Oswego Harbor were far below the usual figures. White-winged Scoter — 1 on 3/7 in Oswego Harbor.

HAWKS — OWLS: Cooper's Hawk — a rash of records beginning 3/23 of single birds in widely separated areas would indicate the start of this bird's spring migration through the region. Red Tailed Hawk — by all reports, the most common wintering raptor, even out-numbering the Sparrow Hawk; nesting activity began about 3/15. Rough-legged Hawk — though the first fall date was 10/17, the main group of wintering birds did not arrive until mid- or late November and were considerably reduced in numbers as compared to last year's figures (high count, February, 1953 — 26; high count, February, 1954 — 7). Marsh Hawk — wintering birds were few and far between this year; where normally 6 - 8 birds (mostly female

or immatures), could be seen on any winter day last year, only 1 - 3, (mostly males) could be found this year. Sparrow Hawk — winter counts were extremely low, the only high count being 10 on 12/27. Red Shouldered, Marsh, and Sparrow Hawk were observed in migration by O. A. S. at Oneida Lake on 3/28. Coot — 3 wintered in a protected bay at Oswego. Killdeer — no wintering birds; first spring date 2/22 at Fayetteville. Glaucous and Iceland Gulls — excellent flight of these birds this winter; 10 records of Glaucous Gulls, mostly from Oswego River (exception — 3 at Westernville, north of Rome, on 2/27) between early part of January and early part of March; 12 records of Iceland Gulls between January and March along the Oswego and Seneca Rivers and at Onondaga Lake; a fine adult of the Kumlien's form was seen several times at Baldwinsville and Phoenix. Great Black-backed Gull — the freeze up of the Oswego River in early January concentrated these birds in the half-frozen harbor at Oswego, creating the all-time high of 150 birds on 1/10.

For Onondaga Audubon Society and the Syracuse birders in general, this has been a wonderful owl year. Screech Owl — 9 reports scattered through the winter; 3 of these birds were captured and banded by Dr. B. P. Burt of Syracuse in February. Horned Owl — 2 nest sites located and under regular observation. Snowy Owl — the flight this year surpassed any **previously recorded** flight in this area (I emphasize "**previously recorded**" because the greater numbers may be due to a more developed contacting and recording system); first date was 10/31 at Oneida Lake; peak number of reports was in early and mid-February; several birds still present at end of this period; total number of birds reported — 40. Barred Owl — 2 at Constantia on 12/28. Long Eared Owl — 3 captured and banded by B. P. Burt on 2/6, 8, and 10 (1 each day) near his home in Syracuse. Short Eared Owl — its winter status practically paralleled that of the Rough-legged Hawk; first arrival was 10/16 at the Three Rivers Game Management Area, but the wintering population was not present until the end of December; total number of wintering birds reduced as compared to last year (14 in winter of 1952-1953; 6 in winter of 1953-1954). Saw-whet Owl — 2 captured by SPCA in Syracuse on 2/13; both birds were turned over to B. P. Burt, who banded and released them; 1 seen on 3/21 at Fayetteville.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Belted Kingfisher and Flicker — both present until end of December; no winter reports of them after the cold spell of January. Tree Swallow — first date was 36 on 3/28 at Oneida Lake. Tufted Titmouse — 1 on 1/9 and 1/30 at Kenwood, Oneida; also a good description of one seen at Syracuse on 3/7 was given by an inexperienced but reliable observer. It is hard to say if these birds are mere strays or if they represent the continued influx of southern birds into the area. If they are part of the southern movement, it would be interesting to know from which point they are spreading — up from the Finger Lakes, west from the Mohawk Valley, or east from the Ontario Plain. Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Robin — all wintered in very small numbers; no reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch for the entire period. Carolina Wren — 1 at Kenwood, Oneida, on 3/19, 20, 30; another example of the southern influence perhaps. Pipit — none wintering; first spring date was 35 on 3/19 at Syracuse. Gray Shrike — a really spectacular flight this winter; first report on 11/26 was followed thereafter by 2 - 3 reports per week; 1 singing bird was noted at Syracuse from 3/9 to 3/21; birds still present at the end of winter period.

WARBLERS — FRINGILLIDS: Magnolia Warbler — 1 immature male on 12/12, 13, at a feeding station in Westernville (Mrs. F. W. May). Red-wing Blackbird — first spring date 2/19 at South Onondaga; first female Red-wing reported on 3/21 at Cross Lake.

The winter of 1953-54 will go down as the poorest "winter finch" year in the past five. Evening Grosbeak — only 5 reports (highest number, 35) through entire period. No Crossbills or Pine Grosbeaks were reported, Redpolls were observed just **twice**, and Pine Siskin flocks (6 reports) were never above 15. Several of the sparrows, notably White-throated and Swamp, wintered, probably because of the mild weather in December, which would also account for the report of 6 Field Sparrows on 12/2 at Westernville. Snow Buntings — certainly the most common winter fringillid, even outnumbering the Juncos and Tree Sparrows; an enormous flight went through the Syracuse area on 3/21 when approximately 2000 (in flocks of 20 - 500) were seen by O. A. S. members; none reported since that date to the end of March.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

The St. Lawrence Region covers Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties which have a total area of 5,358 square miles or 11% of the land area of New York State. The population is 200,000 of which half are rural. There are 10,000 farms averaging 175 acres each.

Lake Ontario forms the western border and the St. Lawrence River is to the north. The elevation of the lake and the upper part of the river is 246 feet above sea level. Parts of Lewis County are about 1500 feet, with Gomer Hill reaching 2,175 feet. The highest point in this region is in the eastern edge of St. Lawrence County. It is Mt. Matumba (2,700 ft.) near Tupper Lake. Except for a small part of Lewis County this region is drained by the Black and other rivers that flow into Lake Ontario or the St. Lawrence River. There are many lakes including Black Lake, Cranberry Lake and Lake Bonapart.

The St. Lawrence Plain borders Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River and extends inland for some thirty miles. This area was originally covered by beech-birch-maple-hemlock forests, but it is now used for dairy farming. The Hungarian Partridge has been successfully introduced in this area, (*Kingbird*, Vol. 2, No. 4). The spruce-fir forests of the Adirondack Mountains reach into the eastern parts of Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. The Tug Hill Plateau is an interesting area in the southern part of Lewis County (Linn. News Letter, Vol. 7, No. 6, 1-2). This is an uninhabited area of 225 square miles halfway between Rome and Watertown.

Parts of the Adirondack Forest Preserve are in eastern Lewis County and in southeastern St. Lawrence. In this region there are also 135,000 acres of State Forests. There are many other wooded areas and fields covered with brush. The Perch River Game Management Area of some 3,600 acres is ten miles north of Watertown. Much work is being done here to provide food for waterfowl and in the fall ducks are banded. This area is open to the public only under certain conditions, but Mr. John Wilson, district game manager, and others aid the North Country Bird Club in many ways. Under the direction of the Conservation Department small ponds are being established in Jefferson County and other things are being done in an attempt to make better duck hunting. The Brownville Game Farm is near Watertown. The Littlejohn Game Management Area of 7,900 acres is in Jefferson and Oswego Counties.

The famous and beautiful "Thousand Islands" are in the St. Lawrence River near Clayton and Alexandria Bay. There are about 1,600 of these islands and many of them are in Canadian waters. Some of these islands and others in Lake Ontario make ideal breeding places for such birds as Herring Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls, Terns, Ducks, Great-blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons and Double-crested Cormorants.

The St. Lawrence Region is being only partially covered by interested observers and we would welcome help from others, especially in St. Lawrence County and parts of Lewis County.

The period of December-March was one of fairly mild weather except January which was colder than normal.

LOONS — DUCKS: Buffle-head reported Dec. 9 and Ring-necked Ducks Dec. 22. Mallard, Black, American Golden-eye and Lesser Scaup on Dec. 26. Last Pied-billed Grebe Jan. 5, and Horned Grebe Jan. 7. Last Ring-billed Gull Dec. 30. Few Gulls seen near Watertown after the first week of January probably due to a change in the method of garbage disposal. A few Great Black-backed Gulls were seen in December with the Herring Gulls.

Pintails returned about the first of March and Mallards were seen on the 12th. 200 Pintails were at Perch River Flats on March 19. On March 8 Buffleheads and Horned Grebes were on Lake Ontario. Other dates are: Wood Duck, March 15, Hooded Merganser, March 18, and Pied-billed Grebe and Green-winged Teal on March 26. Canada Geese returned late in March (about the 26th).

HAWKS — OWLS: In December the Hawks seemed more numerous than usual both in the number of individuals and the species seen. The Red-shouldered, Marsh, Sharp-shinned, Rough-legged and Sparrow Hawks were seen at the time of the Christmas Bird Count in Watertown on December 26. Sparrow Hawks wintered here and in greater numbers than usual. A Broad-winged Hawk was seen March first and the Marsh and Red-tailed Hawks on the sixth.

John Belknap has the records of twenty Snowy Owls seen in Jefferson County mostly in Jan. and Feb. One was seen near Watertown early in Jan. and remained near one place for six weeks. One observer has seen four Snowy Owls. One was seen in Lowville.

About a dozen Mourning Doves passed the winter at Perch River Game Management Area where they ate the buckwheat and other things planted there for waterfowl. One was found dead. First Killdeer appeared on March first, two or three weeks early.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Few Evening Grosbeaks were reported. About thirty have been in Lowville since early Feb. They appeared in Gouverneur about the first of March and remained at least to the end of the month. I understand that they were in Potsdam during the early winter, but very few were in Watertown. Red-winged Blackbirds appeared in numbers on March first. Grackles came March 18 and many in the next week. Several reports of Juncos (March 28-30). Some Pine Siskins were seen near Lowville.

Several inches of snow covered the ground for a week beginning March 30 and few birds migrated in that time. Where people cleared away the snow and scattered seeds on the bare ground many Song Sparrows were found feeding.

Frank A. Clinch, 183 Park Ave., Watertown, N. Y.

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK

Region Seven consists of the counties of Franklin, Clinton, Essex and Hamilton. It is one of the wildest and least inhabited regions of New York state except around its periphery. It is an area of mountains, lakes, streams, and extensive forest with scattered settlements and cultivated regions, particularly to the east along the Lake Champlain valley and in the north along the St. Lawrence River plain.

The most prominent feature is the central Adirondack mountains which reach a peak in Mt. Marcy at 5,344 feet. Numerous peaks surpass 4,000 feet. But these are not rugged mountains; they are worn and relatively gentle in the way they reach their apices. Here, south of Marcy, is the origin of the Hudson River. To the east, the mountains came close to Lake Champlain, leaving a rather narrow lake valley until farther north beyond Plattsburgh where the valley widens and meets the St. Lawrence River plain which forms the northern third of this region. There are a myriad of lakes, ponds and streams. Elevation varies from 100 feet in Plattsburgh to 5,344 feet on Mt. Marcy. The valley floors in the central portion around Saranac Lake and Lake Placid are at a general level of 1500-1600 feet.

Most of the region is forested except for the Champlain valley and St. Lawrence plain which are farmland. The woodland now is almost entirely second growth. In the lower levels there are oak-hickory forest associations, but most of the region is beech, birch, hemlock, maple. In the higher levels spruce and balsam appear. Thus the bird life shows Alleghenian species penetrating into all portions of the region. In the central portion they overlap at times with Canadian Zone species which are prominent features of the fauna at higher levels. The tree line is passed on some of the highest

peaks. Above 3,000 feet the Bicknell's Thrush may be found on peaks such as Whiteface. In the central mountains may be found breeding such species as Loon, American Merganser, Spruce Grouse, Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Canada Jay, Rusty Blackbird, both Crossbills, White-throated Sparrow, Junco, Lincoln Sparrow, Blue-headed Vireo, Black-poll Warbler and Winter Wren.

There is no organized bird club in Region Seven and only scattered regular observers. They are located at Saranac Lake (G. M. Meade and Greenleaf Chase), Tupper Lake (Agnes Amstutz and Marguerite Kingsbury), Essex (Mrs. R. E. Mason), Keeseville (Thomas Lesperance), and Plattsburgh (Leo Provost), and Crown Point (William Young). The country is too sparsely settled to make an active club very feasible. More observers are needed in all parts, however, particularly around Malone, Ticonderoga, Schroon Lake, Cranberry Lake, Massena, etc. Most of this vast region remains to be studied even superficially. Bird observers who enter the region on vacation or birding trips will do a great service by sending copies of their notes to the regional editor.

I would welcome visits from any of you when you are in this area.

December temperatures were about the average of the past few years. Snowfall was below normal. The central Adirondacks had a "green" Christmas. January was considerably colder than average. At Saranac Lake the daily average maximum was 11.4 degrees, and the daily average minimum -11 degrees! The same was true along Lake Champlain. There were several heavy snowfalls. In early February a thaw took off a good share of the heavy snow cover but by the 6th below zero readings had returned. The low of the season was -39 degrees at Saranac Lake on February 13th. This was followed a week later by a high of 44 degrees and a heavy thaw. March was 5 to 7 degrees below average as to temperature with fairly steady snowfall and cover. A particularly heavy fall for the date occurred on March 29th-30th. This was hard on many of the earlier migrants.

Lake Champlain has been frozen over from both ends leaving only about 3 square miles of open water on the Port Kent - Burlington region. The cone crops of spruce, white cedar, hemlock and tamarack were good this year. Those of balsam and white and red pine were poor. There were very few beech nuts but acorns were plentiful, especially white oak.

This was an unusually good year for winter finches except for redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks which remained unreported.

LOON — DUCKS: In those areas of Lake Champlain which remained open, Black Duck, Greater Scaup and Golden-eyes were present all through the winter season. At Port Henry some 500 to 700 Black Ducks had to be fed because of freeze-over of feeding areas (Thomas Lesperance).

HAWKS — OWLS: Greenleaf Chase reports occasional forays at his feeder at Saranac Lake through the winter by Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. The arrival dates of the Killdeer serve to illustrate what is true for many species: arrival dates in March are 2 to 4 weeks earlier along the Champlain Valley than in the interior mountains. The Killdeer reached Essex on March 9th (Mrs. R. E. Mason) and Saranac Lake on April 3rd (these birds were feeding in center of a heavily traveled highway as the entire country-side had a recent 1 foot snow cover (G. M. Meade). Herring Gulls disappear from Saranac Lakes usually in early November but this year one bird was still present on December 23rd. Returning birds were moving up the Saranac River to Saranac Lake, from Lake Champlain, by March 23rd (G. M. Meade). Several Mourning Doves at Clintonville (T. Lesperance) on January 14th would seem to be wintering birds. Probable spring migrants of this species appeared at Essex (R. E. Mason) on March 11th.

No Snowy Owls were reported in central Adirondacks or along west shore of Lake Champlain this winter. The migration apparently came down to the west of this region of the state.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Reports of Pileated Woodpeckers in central mountains were consistent through the entire winter. No reports of 3-toed Woodpeckers since

the fall season ended. Both Northern and Prairie Horned Larks were present in Saranac Lake area through the winter. There seems to have been a very definite movement into the northern part of the state on February 22nd as this is given as the first appearance date for Horned Larks at Essex (R. M.), Keeseville (T. L.), and Tupper Lake (A. Amstutz); it was difficult to discern a return movement increase at Saranac Lake. While a few Crows are resident in the Adirondack-Champlain region all winter, there is a definite influx beginning in mid to late February. Migrating flocks were seen at Plattsburgh, February 18th (Leo Provost) and at Westport on February 25th. The Champlain Valley is a spring as well as fall flyway for this species. Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches present in good numbers through the winter. Red-breasted Nuthatch common through December in Saranac Lake region; none since then. The Robin also illustrates the difference in arrival dates for the lake valley and the interior mountains (the east to west separation is only 40 miles, none north to south; elevation difference is about 1500 feet). Keeseville, Feb. 2nd (T. L., he does not think this was a wintering bird); Essex, March 2nd (R. M.); Tupper Lake, March 27th; Saranac Lake, March 27th. The same with the Blue Bird which first appeared at Essex March 3rd, and at Saranac Lake on March 27th. This has been a Gray Shrike year. Chase reports them common in the Moira section to the north of the mountains through the winter. They were not reported at Keeseville until March 19th, or Tupper Lake until March 23rd. One female was at Trudeau on March 18th. These reports suggest the possibility of a retreating movement at that period.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: At Saranac Lake (G. M. M.) an extraordinary record was a flock of Meadowlarks on January 8th with a foot of snow and a temperature of 22 below zero the preceding night. Eight birds still present on January 10th. No further report until March 12th when returning migrants probably were seen. This species appeared at Plattsburgh (L. P.) on March 7th. Redwings sent in advance scouts to Keeseville, March 1st; Essex, March 2nd; Tupper Lake, March 7th. The main first flights came at Saranac Lake, Plattsburgh and Tupper Lake between March 14th and 21st. Rusty Blackbirds at Essex March 6th, Plattsburgh, March 25th. Bronzed Grackles arrived variously between March 21st and 28th. Some Cowbirds wintered at Peru, January 26th (T. L.), spring arrivals at Trudeau, March 20th. Evening Grosbeaks did not arrive in most areas in any numbers until late December. From then on there were numerous flocks in Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake; still present at end of March. No banded or marked birds reported. Along Lake Champlain they were absent or very few all winter; none at Keeseville or Plattsburgh; small numbers at Essex. At the latter two places, however, large flocks appeared immediately following a heavy snowstorm on March 29th-30th. This was a winter when Purple Finches remained all winter in unprecedented numbers in both the interior mountains and along the Champlain Valley. No Pine Grosbeaks or Redpolls reported from any point all winter. Pine Siskins abundant at Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake all winter. Numerous Goldfinches in mountains till mid-January when they became much less common. Both Crossbills numerous in mountains all winter. Have been coming to feeders. A few Juncos wintered as usual but the numbers are always small. White-throated Sparrows through winter to early March at Chase's feeder, Saranac Lake. Song Sparrows arrived March 27th to April 1st. Lapland Longspurs, 1 on January 10th with Meadowlarks at Saranac Lake, several more on January 12th to 14th (A. Gurley). Flock of 15 in mid-January at Keeseville (T. L.).

Gordon M. Meade, M. D., Trudeau, N. Y.

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

Region Eight consists of the eleven counties of Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady, Schoharie, Greene, Albany, Columbia, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Warren and Washington. It is an area of lakes, rivers, and mountains, cultivated in the valleys and completely wild in many parts.

The most prominent streams are the Hudson River, which traverses the entire area from north to south, and the Mohawk River, which crosses most of the area in a general west to east direction. Hundreds of lakes dot the landscape, of which the largest are Lake George, Sacandaga Reservoir, Saratoga Lake and Round Lake.

Elevation above sea level varies from about 25 feet at the Hudson River south of Albany, to 4,000 feet at the top of several of the Catskill peaks. The highest point in the region is Hunter Mountain, in Greene county, which towers 4,025 feet above sea level. None of the higher Adirondack peaks occur in this region, but several respectable mountains of about 3,000 feet elevation are found in Warren county.

Besides the Adirondack and Catskill ranges, several other mountain chains enter the region. Outliers of the Berkshire mountains, locally known as the Grafton Mountains, enter northeastern Rensselaer county at elevations of about 2,500 feet. The Taconic Range extends along the eastern border of Rensselaer and Columbia counties, with the highest peaks reaching about 2,000 feet. The Helderberg Escarpment, an outlier of the Catskills, lies slantwise across Albany county, reaching elevations of more than 1,600 feet. In these mountainous areas, much of the land is covered with some type of forest, although practically all of it has been forested at some time.

Ecologically, most of the forests are of the oak-hickory, or Appalachian forest association, and the hemlock-northern hardwoods association. At the higher elevations, the northern coniferous forest of spruce and balsam may be found. Besides these dominant formations, there are numerous bogs, cat-tail marshes of considerable extent, and other minor but interesting areas. Among the largest and most interesting of these smaller areas is the pine barrens near Albany and Schenectady. In this area of sand, pitch pine is the only common tree, and the entire area is covered with scrubby plants such as scrub oak, hazelnuts, sheep laurel, and New Jersey tea. This is the only known breeding habitat in our region for the prairie and pine warblers, and has many interesting plants and animals.

Two bird clubs are at present located in Region Eight. The Sassafras Bird Club at Amsterdam and the Schenectady Bird Club, with members in Schenectady, Albany and Troy, as well as in outlying districts, cover Montgomery, Schenectady and Albany counties with a fair degree of effectiveness. Unfortunately, the highly interesting areas in Greene, Warren and Rensselaer counties are poorly covered by these groups, and additional bird clubs in these counties would be very helpful. A club with headquarters in Glens Falls could cover Warren, Washington and parts of Saratoga counties, one in the area of Catskill or Coxsackie would improve coverage of Greene county, while a Rensselaer-Columbia county group is needed to adequately survey these neglected spots.

Well studied spots include Amsterdam, Schenectady, Albany, Vischer Ponds along the Mohawk north of Albany, the pine barrens, the upper Hudson River above Albany, the Tomhannock Reservoir in Rensselaer county, and the Mohawk River from Schenectady to Albany. A summer colony at Jenny Lake in Saratoga county has led to a careful study of the summer birds in that locality. Work at the Huyck Preserve, near Rensselaerville, Albany county, has resulted in adequate knowledge of the birds of that vicinity. Many other areas remain relatively poorly known.

A mild December, an unusually cold January, a slightly warmer than usual February, and a cold windy March characterized the winter in Eastern New York. Precipitation was about normal for the season. A late snowstorm at the end of March slowed migration and brought wintering birds and early migrants scurrying to feeding stations. The only prominent migrant waves appeared near the end of February and the first week in March.

LOONS — DUCKS: No Loons were reported. Horned and Pied-billed Grebe

appeared at the end of March. A Great-blue Heron was seen most of the winter at Schenectady (Hallenbeck). Two Green-winged Teal were recorded Troy on the Christmas count (Andrews-Bartlett). Other good waterfowl records in December included Old Squaw and Greater Scaup. March waterfowl migration was near normal, with flocks of Mallards, Blacks, Pintails, American Goldeneyes and American Mergansers. Shovellers, Baldpates, Redheads, Canvasbacks, Buffleheads, Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers were recorded in small numbers.

HAWKS — OWLS: Sparrow Hawks wintered in some numbers. Wintering Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks were seen by Esly Hallenbeck. A Goshawk was reported from Schaghticoke on March 15 (A. C. Newman). One Killdeer wintered at Collins Lake, Scotia. Great Black-backed Gulls, unusual here, were reported several times in February, while one Iceland Gull was seen at Schenectady on March 2 (Hallenbeck). A Short-eared Owl was seen near Rensselaer on Feb. 7 (N. Harrington).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Kingfishers arrived at the end of March. Woodpecker numbers were normal, with reports of Pileated from four counties. First reports of Phoebe were March 29. Horned Larks were seen in small flocks, largest group numbering about 50. Tree Swallows were first seen on March 28. A Tufted Titmouse at feeder of B. D. Miller in Schenectady was found dead on Dec. 26. Several records of wintering Robins and Bluebirds reflects the mildness of early winter. Cedar Waxwings, on the other hand, scarce. At least a half dozen Gray Shrikes were seen, more than usual.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Wintering Meadowlarks were seen near Greenville on January 18 (G. Zimmer). A few Red-wings wintered, but great flocks began to appear about Feb. 25. An immature male Baltimore Oriole spent the winter at the feeder of Mrs. Charles Grace at Slingerlands. On March 29 he uttered his first song. Grackles appeared on Feb. 19 and have straggled through since then. There are two February records of Cowbirds, possibly wintering birds. Most observers first saw them after March 20. A Rusty Blackbird was seen at Amsterdam on March 30 (Fitzgerald).

A Cardinal was seen in Amsterdam in late March. Evening Grosbeaks were late for the most part, but by late February and March flocks of 15 to 40 appeared in several places. Purple Finches were the most abundant winter species, with flocks up to 300 reported. Four Pine Grosbeaks were seen near Voorheesville on April 1 (G. Zimmer). Redpolls were completely lacking. Pine Siskins and Goldfinches were seen in small numbers. A Savannah Sparrow was seen at Gallupville on March 30 (G. Zimmer). Fox Sparrows appeared on March 7 and are still with us. Tree Sparrows have been abundant. Song Sparrows wintered in small numbers, and appeared as migrants about the first week in March. Small flocks of Snow Buntings were reported throughout the winter, but never in groups of more than 40.

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REGION 9 — HUDSON - DELAWARE

Region Nine contains segments of two major river valleys, the Delaware on the west and the Hudson toward the east. In this region are six counties—Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland — and the northerly two-thirds of Westchester.

Topographically and ecologically, the region is richly varied. From the region of Slide Mountain (4,204 feet) near the Greene County border, the land cascades downward toward the south, where the corner of Rockland County touches the northern end of the 450-foot Palisades of the Hudson. Between the Catskills and the Palisades are two major mountain ranges lying roughly on a southwest-northeast line: the prominent ridge of the Shawangunk Range (average elevation 1,600 feet) and the tumbled hills of the Hudson Highlands and the Ramapos (up to 1,300 feet at Bear Mountain) on the Orange-Rockland line and extending into Putnam and northern Westchester. Lowest elevations are the marshes of the Hudson River, only a few feet above sea level.

Measured by ruggedness of terrain, Ulster County is outstanding, but Sullivan has 3,080-foot Mongaup Mountain in the westward extension of the

Catskill foothills, and Dutchess and Putnam are walled on the east by the satellites of the Taconic Range. Northern Westchester is also hilly.

In contrast, most of Orange, Rockland and Westchester Counties is rolling, fairly low plateau with a sharp rise from the Hudson River. Westchester is heavily suburbanized, and Rockland is developing rapidly along similar lines. However, the entire region is endowed with state parks and forest preserves that tend to protect the wildlife community. Notable among these are the Catskill State Park, the Palisades Interstate Park, the Pound Ridge Reservation and other Westchester County parks. For better or for worse, the region is also the fountainhead for New York City's drinking water. Major inland bodies of water in Ulster (Ashokan and Rondout Reservoirs), Sullivan, Putnam and Westchester (Croton, Cross River, Kensico) are artificial pools for the New York water supply, and Sullivan County's Mongaup Valley also has power dams.

Most of the region was lumbered in the 18th and 19th Centuries, so second-growth trees predominate. Climax growth is hard to find in Westchester, Rockland, Orange. In the higher portions, the mixture of oak-hickory or maple-hemlock will give way to balsam and spruce, as on the laurel-covered slopes of the Catskills. Ulster County contains several cold highland bogs with Canadian Zone vegetation: Clintondale, Minnewaska, Leibhardt and other bogs less thoroughly studied.

The Catskills are a particularly interesting laboratory for relating life zones to altitude. From the tip of Slide Mountain down into the deeper valleys, for example, one may at different levels enjoy every thrush song known to the East. The Catskill peaks above 3,800 feet harbor such nesting species as Bicknell's Grey-cheeked Thrush, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Slate-colored Junco, White-throated Sparrow. And a little lower are Olive-backed Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, Mourning Warbler.

As far south as the western portion of the Hudson Highlands, at elevations above 1,200 feet, breeding birds include Purple Finch, Brown Creeper, Blackburnian Warbler. At the same time, such southern species as the Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, and Carolina Wren have extended their range up to Ulster County.

Except for Dutchess and Orange Counties, the region is well covered by active bird clubs. As far as your editor knows from the excellent co-operation he has received in assembling these notes, these clubs are: the John Burroughs Natural History Society, in the Ulster area; the Sullivan County Audubon Society; the Rockland Audubon Society; the Bedford Audubon Society, in northern Westchester; the Scarsdale Audubon Society and the Saw Mill River Audubon Society, in southern and central Westchester; the Linnaean Society of New York, which often covers points within the region. In addition, the staff of the Trailside Museum at Bear Mountain keeps a professional eye on both sides of the Rockland-Orange border. However, we are still sadly lacking in reports from the Newburgh area in Orange County and the Poughkeepsie area in Dutchess County.

The winter of 1953-54 can be summed up in one word: January. In the Hudson valley, January was snowier than normal and colder than normal, while December, February and March were far less wintry than usual; inland, March brought a return of snow, sleet, high winds and low temperatures.

LOONS — DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebes wintered in unusual numbers, with a high count of 22 by the Bedford Audubon Society in its own annual Christmas count for northern Westchester, Jan. 9. Three Pied-bills appeared for the first time on

the Trailside Museum's census of the Palisades Interstate Park, Jan. 2. Stanley O. Grierson found a Pied-bill on Jan. 18 lying dead on Route 17 in Katonah, Westchester County; the bird had evidently mistaken the highway for a pond surrounded by snow, and it had been hit by a car. The temperature that morning was 15 below zero.

Ducks seemed ready to winter in abnormal numbers until the January cold waves iced the Hudson River and other bodies of water. On Dec. 26, for example, the Rockland Audubon Society census showed more than 500 Canvasbacks at Stony Point, where half that number regularly winter. This flock was driven out by the freeze-up, as was the usual flock of 200 or so Ruddy Ducks in the Tappan Zee, off Piedmont. However, the Bedford Audubon census on Jan. 9 listed good numbers: 12 Pintails, 138 Ring-necked Ducks, 59 Hooded Mergansers.

Six Hooded Mergansers, three of each sex, were seen Dec. 4 at Carmel, Putnam Co., by Mrs. George Little. A White-winged Scoter, uncommon inland, visited Congers Lake, Rockland Co., on Dec. 16 (Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper, Eugene R. Brown). Four Buffle-heads on Lake Tiorati, Bear Mt.-Harriman Park, on Jan. 2 were noteworthy (Trailside Museum census). These ducks are rarely seen on the Hudson, let alone on a lake at 1,200-foot elevation. They are more regular on the larger reservoirs of Westchester, as shown by the 17 seen on Mar. 13 at Mt. Kisco by John Kelly and family and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley O. Grierson. The same observers found an early male Pintail on Mar. 14 at North Kensico Reservoir, Armonk. The Kellys spotted four Red-breasted Mergansers on the Hudson at Croton Point on Feb. 14.

HAWKS — OWLS: Turkey Vulture arrived in Rockland County rather early, Mar. 2 (MRH, Ruth Steffens). A Rough-legged Hawk loitered around Stone Ridge, Ulster Co., in late December and early January (Fred Hough).

Virginia Rail was a winter resident this year: Dec. 28 at Katonah, Westchester (SG); Jan. 9 (Leonard Sargent) and Jan. 16 (Paul De Laura) south of Mt. Kisco, Westchester; also at Iona Island, near Bear Mt., in January (Trailside Museum). A flock of eight Wilson Snipe appeared in New York City, Rockland Co., on Mar. 14 (Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steffens). Also a Pectoral Sandpiper in the same wet field on Mar. 27 (Betty Barron, Helen Tietz, Ruth Steffens). This was the third occurrence in Rockland County.

The Coot was a common wintering species this season. On Dec. 9, there were 30 at Titicus Reservoir, North Salem (SG), and on Jan. 9, there were 53 at Lake Glenida, Carmel, Putnam Co. (Mrs. Little) and 77 in the northern Westchester area covered by the Bedford Audubon census.

Our reports list an unusual variety of gulls and owls. Up to four Glaucous Gulls came to the dump at Croton Point: one on Jan. 31 (Rockland Audubon field trip), one on Feb. 7 (Geoffrey Carleton), and four on Feb. 7 (Mrs. Howard Apfel). Mrs. Apfel reported one adult and three immatures, also an immature Iceland Gull on the same date. A few Snowy Owl reports have been received: at Kingston Pt., Ulster Co., Dec. 23 (Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dunbar); at Welch Lake, Rockland Co., Jan. 2 (FS and party) and Jan. 3 (BB); at Bedford, Westchester Co., Jan. 22 (Dr. Alvin Underkoffler) and Feb. 9 (Leilah Diekman). A Long-eared Owl was seen several times in December near Kripplebush, Ulster Co. (FH). Near New Paltz, Dr. Robert Pyle saw a Barn Owl on Dec 27.

Mrs. William Grierson, field secretary of Bedford Audubon Society, reports two unusual episodes involving owls and BAS members. On Feb. 3, after a trip to New York City and back, William Breuninger of Pound Ridge found the body of a Saw-Whet Owl in the radiator grill of his car. At 8:30 p. m. on Feb. 21, Henry Lanier, Jr., and family and Stockton Greene came upon a Great Horned Owl while driving on Mead Chapple Road, South Salem. As the owl rose from the middle of the road, it dropped a freshly-killed Barn Owl. The latter is now in Stanley Grierson's collection.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Two reports emphasize the success of the Pileated Woodpecker's comeback in this region: on Dec. 6, one of these birds was seen within the village of Pleasantville (Mrs. H. Townsend Laire), and on Jan. 2 the Bear Mountain census listed a record high of eight birds. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Croton Point on Feb. 14 (GC).

An Arkansas Kingbird stayed at the Bear Mountain Trailside Museum from Dec. 6 (John C. Orth) to Dec. 26 (John Kenney). Phoebe's wintered in above average numbers.

A pair of Horned Larks on Sackett Lake Road, Sullivan Co., on Jan. 10 allowed Mr. and Mrs. Wilber P. Carr to approach closely, and showed some slight interest in their Audubon bird call. A pair of Prairie Horned Larks was seen at Lederle Laboratories, Pearl River, Rockland Co., on Feb. 18 by Frank Steffens, who found them carrying food, apparently to nestlings, on Apr. 2. These birds nested in the same place in 1949, 1950, 1953 and perhaps others years.

Swallows late and swallows early: A Barn Swallow was found dying on the late date of Dec. 1 outside of Purdys School. The finder, Bonnie Lee Sprout, turned the bird over to Stanley Grierson for identification and preservation. A Tree Swallow flew over Piermont Pier, Rockland Co., on the amazingly early date of Feb. 20 (RAS field trip).

Records for the Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren are now too numerous to list for Westchester, Putnam, Sullivan and Ulster Counties, where they did not occur until recent years. Eleven were counted on the Bedford Audubon census Jan. 9. The only Red-breasted Nuthatch reported in the region remained at Lake Kitchawan from Jan. 29 through March (Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Weeks of the BAS). Brown Creepers were abundant at the turn of the year, with high counts of 13 by the Bear Mountain Trailside Museum on Jan. 2 and an equal number by BAS on its Jan. 9 census.

Two Catbirds turned up near Chappaqua, Westchester Co., on Mar. 1 (Mrs. Joseph Batten), and Brown Thrasher at Nyack on Mar. 6 (MRH). A wintering Brown Thrasher was seen on Jan. 17 in Nyack (EBR). A Mockingbird came daily to the feeding tray of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steffens in New York City, Rockland Co., from Jan. 4 through March. Wilber P. Carr reports Robins more numerous than usual for winter in Sullivan County.

Pipits were decidedly uncommon, though Dr. Pyle saw a block of about 50 near Springtown, Ulster Co., on Feb. 5. There were two reports of Shrikes: Dec. 11 at the feeding station of Kenneth D. Niven, Monticello, Sullivan Co., and Dec. 27 near New Paltz (Dr. Pyle).

A Bohemian Waxwing, extremely rare in the East, is carefully described by Sullivan County Audubon Society. It was in company of a Cedar Waxwing at Niven's feeding station from Jan. 3 to Jan. 5, with frequent opportunities for side-by-side comparison. The bird was studied through 9x35 binoculars and 20x Bausch & Lomb telescope by Mr. and Mrs. Niven and Mr. and Mrs. Edward McBride, who noted larger size, pearly-grey underparts, white wing markings, and rusty under tail coverts. They also heard the bird call.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbird wintered in Rockland County Feb. 22, (MRH, RS), Sullivan County (KDN), and Westchester County (12 on Feb. 22 at Mt. Kisco, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Wodson, Jr.). The Cardinal is well established in Ulster County (FH).

The big find in Westchester this winter was a Black-headed Grosbeak, a western species. Stanley Grierson had the experience of seeing his first Black-headed Grosbeak in New Canaan, Conn., on Feb. 21 and his second less than a week later, Feb. 26, in his home town of Katonah, 20 miles away. The Katonah bird came to the feeding station of Mr. and Mrs. William Grierson. It was identified as a young male, with a head slightly darker than that of the New Canaan bird. Though it came to the feeding station at irregular hours from 12 noon to 4 p. m., the bird was seen by a dozen local people through March. As a further oddity, a Dickcissel was often at the feeding tray at the same time.

Evening Grosbeaks entered the region in small numbers: ten at Monticello on Dec. 6 (KDN), five at Mt. Kisco on Jan. 23 (Mr. and Mrs. John Trainer), three at Chappaqua on Feb. 3 (Mrs. Jarvius Matsumoto), and three at Katonah on Feb. 16 (Mrs. E. D. Appleby). William Russell reported a high count of 86 Purple Finches on Mar. 22 near Mt. Kisco, Westchester Co., but this species was sparse during the winter. House Finches continue to appear regularly in more and more localities, apparently as the spread from the western Long Island colony develops further. Two came to the Niven's feeder in Monticello, Sullivan Co., on Dec. 6; three were identified among a flock of Purple Finches at Pound Ridge Reservation, Westchester Co., during the Bedford Audubon census Jan. 9 (William Wheeler); one was seen in Peekskill on Feb. 8 (Mrs. Eric Rusch).

Redpolls were very scarce: Three seen in Monticello (KDN) on Jan. 18 remained for the rest of the winter, and a small flock was noted in Katonah on Jan. 29 by Mrs. Albert Melahn. There were no other reports. Pine Siskins occurred only one or two at a time in normally favored portions of Rockland, Westchester, Putnam

and Ulster Counties, yet Sullivan County had a flock of more than 400 in Monticello on Dec. 26 (Pauline Chernick and Edward McBride) and a flock of more than 100 from Nov. 16 through the winter at Ferndale (WPC).

Beside the Katonah Dickcissel, the Dickcissel remained at the feeding station of Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper in Nyack from Jan. 20 through Feb. 15, and was reported at Stone Ridge, Ulster Co., in late December (Tom Morgan, fide Fred Hough). Two Towhees were counted on the Bear Mountain Trailside Museum census Jan. 2. A Savannah Sparrow was reported near New Paltz on Dec. 27 (RP) and an early Fox Sparrow at Katonah on Mar. 4 (Mrs. William Grierson).

Snow Buntings, normally irregular, were distributed about as usual, except that they were scarce in Ulster County (FH). Robert J. Hammerslag reports that the Bedford Audubon census on Jan. 9 yielded 26 Buntings at the Amawalk Reservation (John Kelly and family). On Jan. 15, Wilber P. Carr saw more than 25 at Ferndale, Sullivan Co. A big count of about 50 on Jan. 17 at Vista, Lewisboro Township, northeastern Westchester, was reported by Mrs. Walter S. Poor. The only Rockland County records came from Lederle Laboratories, Pearl River: Jan. 19 (FS), Jan. 21, three birds (MRH, ERB).

Robert F. Deed, 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N. Y.

REGION 10 — MARINE

This marine region consists of New York City's five boroughs — Kings, Queens, Manhattan, Bronx and Richmond — part of Westchester and the eastern counties of Long Island — Nassau and Suffolk. Long Island, approximately 125 miles long, occupying the bulk of the territory, comprises a hilly north shore which extends into a central "backbone" of glacial moraines, ending in terminal moraines which slope to an almost flat, sandy plain reaching south for variable distances. This ranges from the Hempstead plains on the west (the widest distance) to a mile or less on the south fork near East Hampton. Margin lands occupy the lower part of the plain; then come the marsh lands, bordering the many bays which are contained by the outer barrier beaches and fed through inlets. The outer beach extends along the Atlantic ocean from the Rockaways to Shinnecock. Further east, dune-lands on the main island go to the high bluffs at Montauk, whose steep sides undergo considerable erosion during major storms. Similar bluffs range along the north shore on the Long Island sound westward to Port Jefferson, where sheltered bays are to be found intermittently westward to the Little Neck Bay area in Queens county. Along the sound, the shore-line is mostly rocky or pebbly, the fine white sand being restricted mostly to the vicinity of Eaton's Neck, Sunken Meadow and a few other locations. Between the sound and the ocean, east of Riverhead, the island is divided into two flukes or forks. Between these are the broad Peconic Bay and Gardiners Bay. Islands of importance in the region are Shelter, Gardiners, Cartwright, Plum and Fishers. There are fairly large tracts of salt march in the sheltered bays between the forks.

Numerous small streams flow in shallow, sandy beds southward on the coastal plain, but the largest — the Peconic River — flows east into Peconic Bay. Streams are insignificant on the north shore. Small artificial ponds and reservoirs add diversity to the flat plains, which around Hempstead are completely inhabited, and almost fully populated to Bayshore on the south shore. The hilly north shore offers more difficulty to builders and it is here that the best breeding populations among birds are found. Elevations range from sea level to 420 feet in the center part of the island on High Hill, the highest of the Manetto or West Hills. There are a few other prominent hills ranging from the 391-foot Harbor Hill at Roslyn to Bald Hill, north of Speonk.

Parts of Staten Island are also hilly and hills range northward to the upper border of the region around New York City. The Carolinian flora typified by the tulip tree (*Liriodendron*), covers the northwestern part of Long Island to Cold Spring Harbor and intermittently further. Along the south shore from Bellmore and Massapequa irregularly, and consistently from Babylon to the eastern end of Long Island, great tracts of scrub oak and pitch pine barrens give sanctuary to colonies of Hermit Thrushes, and to Pine and Prairie Warblers.

About New York City the parks are the only open places to contain migrating birds, but being in the Hudson River flyway they are veritable meccas during spring and fall flights. Most famous are Forest Park in Queens, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, Central, Bronx. Inwood, VanCortlandt and Pelham Bay parks ranging upward through the city. On Long Island, good areas for shore birds are the disturbed (pumping, filling, etc.) tracts around Jamaica Bay, the Rockaway and Atlantic Beach jetties (mostly in winter), Jones Beach Sanctuary Pond, Moriches and Shinnecock inlets, and in the Mecox and Sagaponack areas. Good water bird observations points are the above mentioned jetties, Hempstead Lake, Point Lookout, Jones Beach ocean front, Montauk Point, Orient Point, Bayville, Mill Neck, Little Neck Bay and off Beechhurst. Occasionally good winter counts of Scaup, Canvas-back and other diving ducks may be taken around the East River end of the Sound, and good records occasionally come from lower New York Bay. Land birding on Long Island is generally believed, in spring, to be progressively worse the further one goes from the city line. This is particularly true as to varieties. Counts over eastern Long Island are fairly good in the fall, however, with many good records coming from Suffolk county.

Moderate fall and early-winter weather into January resulted in unprecedented number of half hardy birds being reported around the first of the year. With the storm and cold weather on January 10, 11, no more reports came in of earlier reported Phoebe, Palm Warbler and Northern Yellow-throat. About this time an immature Western Tanager also disappeared from Riis Park, almost identical to the time that one was last reported at Jones Beach in January, 1953. Moderate weather returned and in mid-February, following a few warm days, Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles appeared, and, as with last year, there was no cold weather to retard the movement. The count of Prairie Horned Larks on territory at this time east of the Jones Beach tower along the grassy strips was 19, two more pairs than in 1953. Killdeer arrived about February 20 following several warm days. The November storm piled up a mile-long sand bar westward of the Fire Island inlet breakwater (a long, rocky jet extending offshore to the southwest), rendering it practically useless. Presumably the feeding ground just offshore of the barrier beach was affected as the great concentrations of all three Scoters and large flock of Oldsquaws of last year were represented by small straggling numbers this year around the same date.

LOONS — DUCKS: There were no unusual records among loons or grebes — no Pacific Loon, no Western or Eared Grebes; Holboell's Grebes were scarce — two at Atlantic Beach, January 30 (J. Mayer, G. Rose). Phenomenal numbers of Pied-billed Grebes were listed on the western Long Island Christmas Census with many remaining through the winter; maximum, 17 at Riverhead, February 3 (G. Raynor). The White Pelican, at Mill Neck 18 months, reportedly left during cold weather, but is thought to have moved to another pond to the west; this is being investigated. Only winter Gannet report came from Montauk. For many years Long Island's American Egret records terminated the year in early November. This season we had three winter records: singles, Riis Park, December 26 (R. Grant); Merrick, January 24 (E. Morgan); Hempstead, February 13 (E. Phelan). Maximum Great Blue Heron: 20 at Shinnecock, January 30 (Baldwin Bird Club). There were several mid-winter records of Snow Goose; Canada Goose was rare on western Long Island, but

was present in large numbers around Water Mill. Some 6,000 Brant wintered on our western bays. The fairly open winter assisted in maintaining a good Anatinae duck population resulting in good numbers of Gadwall, Pintail, Baldpate and Shoveller. Red-head was scarce on western Long Island, with one at Belmont Lake State Park, February 8 (A. Way). The Ring-necked Duck, once regarded as almost accidental, may be found in late winter in nearly any fair-sized pond — maximum, Eastport, January 3, 65 (Raynor). The European Teal, now regarded as a migrant where formerly a winter resident, appeared at Jones Beach pond after spring-like weather on February 20; one was seen at East Patchogue, March 7 and the most recent record comes from Milburn Pond, between Baldwin and Freeport, March 28 (R. Arbib, R. Sloss). No Eiders were reported on western waters, but two drake King Eiders were seen at Montauk, February 21 and 20 American Eiders the same day (Grant, Kramer). Hooded Merganser was not commonly reported, and there appears to be a decline in winter numbers of this bird for the past several years. Unique were five Harlequin Ducks on January 30 at Montauk.

HAWKS — OWLS: There were several reports of Red-shouldered Hawk on western Long Island and a few of Red-tailed on eastern Long Island; Rough-legged Hawk was scarce; latest report, two at Brookhaven, February 27 (Raynor). No Gyrfalcons reported; Duck Hawk was casual. A fully identified Pigeon Hawk was seen at Canarsie, March 22 (Alperin), and a Bald Eagle at South Haven in late January. A Florida Gallinule was recorded at Lawrence, January 10 (Bull). Wilson's Snipe were reported from several locations; there were four or five records of Glaucous and Iceland Gulls throughout the region. Several Kittiwake records came from the south shore of Long Island.

The European Black-headed Gull and Little Gull have been almost unrecorded since the elimination of the sewer at The Narrows some time ago, but there was one winter record of Black-headed Gull seen from the Staten Island Ferry. The ever increasing numbers of wintering Mourning Doves showed 116 in the Queens group count, December 26.

Concerning Owls: three Barn, seven Screech and six Short-eared were reported on the Queens census. Several Saw-whet Owls were observed at Jones Beach during the winter and a good concentration of Long-eared Owls were reported from Pelham (P. Buckley). Snowy Owl invasion was rather meager compared to the last two, although records were well spread over the region.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Unusual flycatchers were: an Arkansas, or Western Kingbird, seen at Glen Head, January 2 (D. Mills) and a Phoebe, East Moriches, January 1 (G. Raynor). Tree Swallows were again resorting to the Cedar-Oak Beach area. This is now the third or fourth year that they have been wintering there. A Tufted Titmouse appeared at Tackapausha Preserve, Curator Morgan feeding it from early December on sunflower seed and is still present. Red-breasted Nuthatch has been rare and irregular with only one record for late winter; this from February on (Cedar Beach). Winter Wrens were somewhat more common on the Christmas census, especially in Queens, whose census reported nine. There was a good flight of Gray Shrikes, being reported from a dozen locations, and nearly as many Migrant Shrike records.

WARBLERS — SPARROWS: A Pine Warbler, several Palm Warblers, one or two Chats and several Yellow-throats were seen around the first of the year, but practically none since. There was one record of Baltimore Oriole at Idlewild in January. Records of some 15 Cardinals in western Long Island and several at Southampton indicate that this species is maintaining its numbers. A puzzling Grosbeak, wintering at Idlewild shows definite indications of being a Black-headed as it assumes the spring moult. Northern Finches were practically absent: one Redpoll reported and very few of Siskin. The Ipswich Sparrow was consistently reported throughout the winter from several locations, with seven reported on the South Nassau Christmas census and a good March migration noted. Tree Sparrows were plentiful. An immature Golden-crowned Sparrow was first seen at Jones Beach on January 31 (G. Carleton) and was present daily until March 20. The Lapland Longspur, observed in fair numbers around Jamaica Bay in late fall, disappeared by the end of the year, but the January 10 snowfall brought an influx of several hundred Snow Buntings to Jones Beach and large numbers elsewhere. A rapid disappearance was noted in February and the latest report was 10 at Moriches, March 14 (Raynor).

John J. Elliott, 3994 Park Avenue, Seaford, L. I., N. Y.

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